Amount spent on Reddy Tribunal

†5482. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Reddy Tribunal constituted for the Punjab and Haryana water dispute has been working;

(b) the details of the facilities available to the Chairmen/members of the said tribunal; and

(c) the total amount spent on this tribunal so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Ravi and Beas Water Tribunal constituted for the verification and adjudication of the matters referred to in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2, respectively, of the Punjab Settlement through a Notification dated 2.4.1986 of the Government of India, held its first sitting on 10.4.1986.

(b) As per Inter-State Water Dispute Rules, 1959, the Chairman and the Members of the Tribunal are entitled to such allowances and other benefits as are admissible to serving Judges of the Supreme Court or of a High Court, as the case may be.

(c) A total of about Rs. 2.17 crores has been spent on the Tribunal till 1999-2000.

Protection of Akheriganj

5483. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 136 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 1999 and state:

(a) the status of implementation of short term measures for the protection of Akheriganj area in Murshidabad district; and

(b) the status of the action taken to arrest the charging course of Ganga along river Pagla in the district of Malda, upstream of Farrakka Barrage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The short term measures for protection of Akheriganj area in Murshidabad district are to be executed by the State Government from the State Plan funds in accordance with the jurisdiction and prioritisation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee. Out of the total length of 4 km. revetment work at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crore, about 1900 metre revetment work has been completed at Akheriganj for protection on the right bank of river Ganga down- stream of Farakka Barrage.

(b) State Government of West Bengal has identified 7 (Seven) nos. of schemes which are essential to hold the bank line of Ganga from merging with the river Pagla. Out of these, work on 4 (four) schemes has been taken up by the State Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.